

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Middletown Senior Center

150 William Street

June 5, 2012

5:00 PM

1. Members Present: Councilman Ron Klattenberg, Councilman Philip Pessina, Commissioners: Ed Dypa, Ed Rubacha, Claude Hendrickson, William Wasch, Patricia Jackowski, Annabelle Malone

Absent: Tom Hutton

Staff Present: Manager Raymond A. Santostefano, Interim Director and Heidi Geores, Senior Center Staff

Absent: Stephan Allison, Interim Program

General Public: none

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:03.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of January Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes the April 3, 2012 was made by Annabelle Malone and seconded by Pat Jackowski.

Departmental Reports:

Director Raymond A. Santostefano:

- The Municipal Agent continues to provide numerous services to seniors including: applications for food stamps, section 8, department of social services, medical and pharmaceutical insurance issues and protective services for the elderly.
- There was an issue between two seniors during a bingo game that required staff to involve the Middletown Police
- Many popular programs took place at the center. The Parks Department assisted with a hamburger and hotdog BBQ that served 49 patrons. Middlesex Health Care Center brought us two monthly free senior breakfasts. Judge Joe Marino spoke about Wills to 60 patrons. Dr. Pansiari gave a seminar on Living Wills. Vinal Technical High School brought us two free computer tutoring sessions. Civitan Bingo took place on the last Tuesday of April and May. The Middletuners' Chorus performed at several locations with transportation provided by the senior center bus.
- Staff continue to pursue new programming opportunities.

Program Updates – Stephan Allison

- Program information provided by Interim Director, Raymond A. Santostefano in Mr. Allison's absence.

Old Business

➤ Building Committee Update:

- Councilman Ron Klattenberg informed the commission that Janice Cunningham, consultant, will be presenting her report on the Eckersley Hall building to the State

Historic Building Registry for their consideration. The Building Committee is very excited for this to happen as she has never been turned down by the registry. Acceptance to the Historical Registry will allow some of the costs of the Eckersley Hall project to be deferred via sold tax credits. It has been agreed on that the temporary buildings housing the Military Museum will be moved to Veterans' Park. This will allow for an additional 16 parking spaces for the proposed new senior center, bringing the total available parking spots to 90.

➤ **Update on Triad:**

- Chairman Ed Dypa attended a Triad conference and shared information on a speaker who covered the topic of a scam that defrauds vulnerable seniors into signing over any proceeds from their estates upon death using completely legal documents. There was a discussion about bringing this speaker to the Middletown Senior Center at least once and that it is possible that speaking fees may be waived through our connection with Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging.

➤ **Defibrillator Report:**

- Annabelle Malone is pursuing the collection of pledged funds that will make this purchase possible. The defibrillator will be the same model currently in use by other city departments.

➤ **Senior Services Commission / Senior Center Mission Statement**

- Chairman, Ed Dypa read aloud and suggested the following be adopted by the commission:

➤ **Senior Service Commission Mission Statement**

The Senior Services Commission shall study the needs of elderly persons in the community in relation to housing, economic, employment, health, recreation and other matters. It shall analyze the services for the aged provided by the community, both by public and private agencies, and shall make recommendations to the Mayor, the Common Council and the Senior Services Administrator as to ways to improve the lives of the senior persons in the community.

➤ **Senior Center Mission Statement**

The Middletown Senior Center's Mission is to provide a comprehensive, multifaceted Service and referral program tailored to meet the needs of adults 60 years of age and older. The Center works to enhance the dignity of seniors while supporting their wellness and independence and encouraging their community involvement. The goal is to provide the seniors in the community with the opportunity to experience an optimal quality of life.

Commissioner Pat Jackowski motioned to accept both the Senior Services Commission Mission Statement and Senior Center Mission Statement vote to accept, seconded by Annabelle Malone. The motion was carried unanimously by the commission.

New Business:

➤ **Committee Concerning Persons with Disabilities:**

- Faith Jackson, Director of Human Resources had invited Interim Director Raymond A. Santostefano to attend a meeting in her office with the committee concerning people with disabilities regarding the age requirements to use the Senior Center and or programs in

Middletown. Mr. Santostefano was unable to attend that meeting due to a scheduling conflict, but did invite their attendance during the Senior Services Commission meeting to bring this issue to the commissioners. To date, this has not happened. The Commissioners held a discussion on this topic and concluded that in keeping with guidelines provided by Cheryl Jackson, Aging Services Division – State Unit on Aging, the Senior Center would continue with the current policy of serving the 60 and older community which may include disabled seniors, but would not include individuals under age 60. An exception exists for residents of Sbona who are 50 or older and disabled.

➤ **Election of a new Vice Chairperson:**

- Commissioner Pat Jackowski was nominated by Annabelle Malone. Councilman Phil Pessina motioned to vote, seconded by Councilman Ron Klattenberg. The Commission voted her in unanimously. The issue of remaining vacant seats will be brought to Marie Norwood, Clerk of the Common Council.

Miscellaneous:

Adjournment: 5:46

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Geores